1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a protein wherein said nucleic acid molecule is expressed in larger amounts in the hypothalamus tissue of obese animals compared to lean animals and wherein the sequence of nucleotides encodes amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:14 or amino acid sequence having at least 60% similarity to SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:14.

3. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:13 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 30% similarity to SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:13 or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:13 or their complimentary forms under hybridization conditions comprising from at least about 1% v/v to at least about 15% v/v formamide and from at least about 1 M to at least about 2 M salt and at least about 1 M to at least about 2 M salt for washing conditions.

5. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 1 or 3 wherein the animal is human or *Psammomys obesus*.

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 are currently pending in this application. In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, non-elected claims 7-19 have been cancelled. Further, Claims 1, 3, and 5 have been amended and claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended and no longer recites "a sequence encoding a protein or a derivative, homologue, analogue, and mimetic thereof". The rejection is therefore moot and should be withdrawn.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 229752000700.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 8, 2002 By: _____

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## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

**In the Claims:**

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding or complementary to a sequence encoding a protein [or a derivative, homologue, analogue or mimetic thereof] wherein said nucleic acid molecule is expressed in larger amounts in the hypothalamus tissue of obese animals compared to lean animals and wherein the sequence of nucleotides encodes amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:14 or amino acid sequence having at least 60% similarity to SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:14.

3. (Amended) [An] The isolated nucleic acid molecule [according to Claim 2] of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:13 or a nucleotide sequence having at least 30% similarity to SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:13 or a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:13 [and/or is capable of hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:13 under low stringency conditions at 42°C] or their complimentary forms under hybridization conditions comprising from at least about 1% v/v to at least about 15% v/v formamide and from at least about 1 M to at least about 2 M salt and at least about 1 M to at least about 2 M salt for washing conditions.

5. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to any one of [claims 1 to 4] claims 1 or 3 wherein the animal is human or *Psammomys obesus*.